



REHABILITATION . . .

*the art of caring
and the craft of helping*



Annual Report 1975

West Virginia Division of Vocational Rehabilitation



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STATE BOARD OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

State Capitol Building

Charleston, West Virginia 25305

THOROLD S. FUNK
DIRECTOR

(304) 348-2375

December 31, 1975

Mr. Perce Ross, President
State Board of Vocational Education
Post Office Box 725
Charleston, West Virginia 25322

Dear Mr. Ross:

In accordance with Chapter 18, Article 10-A, Section 3 of the Code of West Virginia, we submit this fifty-fourth Annual Report of the West Virginia Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, covering the activities and expenditures of the Agency during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1975.

The year was one of significant changes, not only for West Virginia, but for the nation. For only the second time since the inception of the Vocational Rehabilitation program in 1921, the number of rehabilitants has declined from the preceding year . . . an average of 10.3% nationally.

There were substantial reasons for this decline. First, the emphasis upon services to the severely disabled mandated by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its ensuing rise in time and money costs. Second, the economic and unemployment picture which placed an even greater burden upon the handicapped job-seeker. Third, a mechanical factor which increased the length of on-the-job time from 30 to 90 days before a rehabilitant can be considered successfully employed.

However, in spite of the over-all national decline, *this state continued to figure as a leader in successful rehabilitations, placing fourth in the nation in the number of persons rehabilitated compared to the number of handicapped persons residing in the state.* The national average was 252; West Virginia succeeded in rehabilitating 508 per 10,000 disabled population. The national rate for severely disabled rehabilitants was 91; *West Virginia again surpassed the national average by ranking 15th in the nation with 118 per 10,000 disabled population.*

In an effort to truly seek out and serve the severely disabled, priority was placed on expanding and educating referral sources, and some 20,815 referrals resulted. In total, 41,506 persons were in some way touched by rehabilitation services. 12,474 applied for services; 7,870 were accepted; 7,594 Individualized Written Rehabilitation Plans were initiated; and *7,092 persons were successfully rehabilitated, 1,647 of whom were severely disabled, accounting for 23.1% of the successful closures.* At this time, 10,038 clients are working with their counselors in an active status, and of this number, 3,759 are severely disabled.

These successes in the face of severe difficulties point to several positive factors: a strong rehabilitation program staffed by dedicated and knowledgeable men and women; the support of the State Board of Vocational Education, the Governor, the Legislature and local governments; the grass-roots involvement that includes employers, community leaders, educators; and the consumer-concerns of the handicapped, themselves.

Sincerely yours,

Thorold S. Funk, Director



Dr. S. J. Baskerville; Perce J. Ross, President; James P. Geary; E. L. Snoderley; Fountie N. Williams, Vice President; Mrs. Mary Marthy Merritt; Bob E. Myers. (Not pictured are A. H. Spangler; Dr. Carl J. Roncaglione; and ex-officio members Dr. Daniel B. Taylor, State Superintendent of Schools and Dr. Ben L. Morton, Chancellor, Board of Regents.



Perce J. Ross, President of the State Board of Vocational Education, making award to one of the Agency employees honored for outstanding service.



Arch A. Moore, Jr., Governor of the State of West Virginia, with winners of the yearly high school essay contest sponsored by the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.



Thorold S. Funk, Director, West Virginia Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and past president of Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation, presenting award to Joseph Owens, Council's Executive Director.

Rehabilitation...what is it?

What makes Vocational Rehabilitation different from other social and welfare agencies? The West Virginia Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is geared, by law, toward assisting the disabled to *become employed*. Every service offered — from medical treatment to vocational training — is aimed at helping the individual gain the strengths needed to find suitable work, whether the person is the head of the household who must support a family; a homemaker whose skills and services keep a home intact; or a person who will require some assistance in everyday living, but whose sheltered employment can provide a measure of independence and self-esteem.

Who is eligible?

Services are offered to anyone who has a physical or mental disability which, for him, is a substantial handicap to employment, provided that there is a reasonable expectation that these services will help him become employed. By Federal Law, these services must be first offered to those who are severely disabled.

What can Rehabilitation do?

- Provide medical and vocational evaluation to determine what physical, mental and vocational resources the client has.
- Provide medical treatment to restore physical or mental capacities or lessen their severity.
- Provide counseling and guidance on a person-to-person basis.
- Provide training that could range from work adjustment to business, trade schools, to college.
- Provide artificial limbs, braces, appliances, wheelchairs, hearing and optical aids as needed.
- Provide tools, licenses, equipment needed for employment or a small business enterprise.
- Provide placement help in securing a suitable job and continue follow-up counseling as long as needed.

Not everyone will need every service. Diagnostic services, counseling/guidance and placement are provided to every client. Clients who have available resources such as hospitalization insurance are expected to use these assets. As long as funds are available, no client is ever denied services because he is unable to pay.



DONNA LEE COTTRELLDistrict I

Most Charleston area residents know Donna as the voice of the morning and evening traffic reports on local radio stations. The ill and elderly know her as the "Good Morning" voice that answers their check-in calls and assures them that help is available if they need it. Donna is with the Charleston Police Department Traffic Division. Donna is also blind.

Referred to DVR while in high school, Donna went through blind mobility and adjustment training and then went on to West Virginia State College. It was here that she developed an interest in law enforcement and in fact, spent one summer working for a community police force. After graduation, Donna approached the Chief of Police and the Mayor of Charleston about a city job, and they agreed to hire her if DVR would obtain an Optacon Scanner and train her to use it.

Donna's Optacon literally lets her "read" print by transmitting it as tactile images. Not only has her proficiency in reading gotten her the job she wanted, but she's helped train other clients in its use and has joined DVR in programs demonstrating her skills.

For the severely disabled

How does rehabilitation really work? Begin with a person whose disability is interfering with his daily life . . . his chances of employment . . . his home and family. He shares his problem with a rehabilitation counselor and together they write a plan to work around the disability and into a condition where employment can be realized and the daily lifestyle improved. To do this, the counselor calls upon his resources of physicians, specialists, vocational experts, teachers, therapists, hospitals, clinics, schools, training facilities and employers in the community.

For the severely disabled, the process involves complicating factors: locating these individuals and finding jobs suited to their capabilities. To encourage referrals, intensive counselor training was instituted and emphasis placed on keeping current sources informed and aware of the Agency's mission. Personal contact, brochures and articles in professional journals helped set up new resources. Placement requires close cooperation with prospective employers and many counselors are deeply involved in working with them for modifications of jobs to meet the abilities of their severely disabled clients.

The range of disabilities encountered during this past fiscal year can be seen readily in the following grouping:

Visual impairments	1022
Hearing impairments	416
Orthopedic impairments	1113
Amputations	172
Psychological disorders	651
Alcoholism, drug addiction	123
Behavioral disorders	218
Mental Retardation	258
Digestive system disorders	1236
Genito/Urinary disorders	441
Speech impediments	43
Skin conditions	58
Malignant neoplasms	121
Endocrine system disorders	236
Blood disorders	151
Epilepsy	80
Other nervous system disorders	38
Circulatory system disorders	421
Respiratory disorders	113
Not elsewhere classified	181

For the spinal cord injured, a special project has been established in the Clarksburg area, and the Center at Institute is already accepting more cord-injured for comprehensive services. Cooperative agreements are being worked up with units such as the West Virginia University Medical Center. For the cardiac case, special consultation from the Assistant Director of Medical Services is made available. A field survey is underway to determine the needs of the epileptic individual and a control unit is planned for the Center. The orthopedic program there is being bolstered with a staffed orthotics and prosthetics shop.

The majority of the severely disabled referred this year were Social Security Disability or Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries. No comparison costs have been firmly established, but indications are that working with a severely disabled person to the point of rehabilitation takes three times as long and costs two to three times that of a similar goal for a non-severely disabled client.



TERRY ALLEN FULK District II

Terry is moderately mentally retarded, a condition caused by severe illness in infancy, and it was his special education teacher at Morgantown High School who referred him to Rehabilitation. Terry was struggling through his special classes and it was obvious that some alternative vocational education would be needed.

He first attended PACE Sheltered Workshop, but the concept of work as evaluation was difficult for him to understand, when he really wanted to earn a meaningful paycheck. At the Center, Terry was frustrated, disoriented and homesick. Meanwhile, a special project for the developmentally disabled was being set up at WVU Research and Training Center and Terry was enrolled. He responded so well to the program that a job was found for him in the Maintenance Department of the University as a Custodian-Janitor.

Terry's assignment is the 4th floor of Armstrong Hall where he cleans, waxes and maintains 10 large classrooms and 5 offices, and is considered one of the best workers by his supervisors. And his paycheck is a real source of pride!

For the sensory impaired

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

It is estimated that there are 4,000 legally blind West Virginians, 2,400 of working age. To meet their needs, DVR has a special counselor for the blind in each of 7 districts and a blind/deaf-serving counselor in the others. In addition, there is a branch office at the West Virginia School for the Blind at Romney; a Blind Adjustment Unit at the Center and a vending facility program operated with the West Virginia Society for the Blind and Severely Disabled. Together, services were offered to 1889 blind and visually disabled and 405 persons were rehabilitated.

Staff training for 5 homemaker counselors and 2 mobility instructors was conducted at the Greater Pittsburgh Guild for the Blind and 2 counselors attended courses in vocational training and placement at Southern Illinois University. To enlarge their work experience, 4 blind college students were hired by the Agency for summer work.

The number of clients enrolled at the Center was upped from 48 to 55 and Optacon training completed for 6 students. A cooperative effort now offers mobility instruction for the blind mentally retarded at Shawnee Hills.

29 vending facilities, 1 training stand, and a commissary are now operated by the Society for the Blind, with sales grossing over \$1,350,000 and a payroll of 84 persons; 34 of them blind and 4 severely disabled. Six new units were opened during the year, including a large cafeteria at the Bureau of Public Debt in Parkersburg.

A Research Project was initiated with a team of counselor, communication/recreation specialist, homemaker teacher and mobility instructor taking their services into the homes of elderly blind in a 3-county test area.

SERVICES FOR THE DEAF

A total of 1264 persons were involved with some phase of services for the deaf and hearing impaired in fiscal 1975. 328 were closed as rehabilitated by special counselors who serve the hearing impaired. Communication being the major difficulty in placing the hearing impaired, a telecommunications system was instituted with tele-typewriters located in every district office, the deaf unit at the Rehabilitation Center, the School for the Deaf at Romney and units were made available to deaf individuals.

Each summer, an evaluation session is offered to Romney students at the Center, which stresses adjustment and communication arts.



HOWARD FRENCH District III

Nickie is now 20 years old and working as a stockboy at the L. S. Good Department Store in Wheeling. He also holds a brown belt in judo and his YMCA class instructor calls him the hardest working and most willing student. Nickie is mentally retarded and had poliomyelitis in childhood which seriously impaired the use of one arm and leg and resulted in a speech problem.

The principal of Lincoln Special School referred Nickie to the Agency. He would need medical care, braces, speech therapy and guidance before any kind of training or placement could begin. Cooperating with Lincoln School, DVR provided work/study experience and adjustment services. Much effort and care went into counseling sessions — individually, in groups with his peers, with his family and with his employer before he was ready to start work.

His family has given him the utmost support and encouragement. His employer and instructors have been patient and understanding. And the results show. Nickie now even has a driver's license and his work week lengthens as his endurance increases.

Public aid to self support

BRP or TRUST FUND

Set up to rehabilitate recipients of Social Security Disability Insurance Benefits, this program is now serving some 2,400 persons yearly, with 208 former recipients going back to work in 1975 and an increase to 310 projected for 1976.

To bring the program up to full strength, the number of special BRP counselors was increased from 9 to 15. However, as with SSI, this program has several disincentives to rehabilitation inherent in it: 1. The high payment scale also tends to discourage claimants from seeking work. 2. It is difficult to set up a trial work period without jeopardizing reviews. 3. A return to work means a loss of Medicare benefits which cannot be restored without a two-year wait if the client should need to return to DIB rolls. The Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation is assessing the problem on a national level and will report suggested changes in policy to Social Security Administration and Rehabilitation Services Administration.

DOW/VR and SSI

Department of Welfare referrals this year resulted in 788 rehabilitations. Although short of the goal of 835, the number is significant in view of the total picture. Changes in DOW policies have affected the number and status of referrals. However, aiming at closer inter-agency cooperation, a goal of 700 rehabilitants has been set for 1976.

SSI has become a matter of national concern. As many recipients have come to regard their payment as a permanent grant instead of a temporary aid, counselors have met with limited success in persuading them to seek work. The total of 37 rehabilitants fell far short of the anticipated 147, however it is hoped that with additional staff training and increased cooperation with the local Social Security Administration some 200 SSI clients will be taken off the rolls in 1976.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION/DVR

Combining the protection of Workmen's Compensation Fund benefits and the expertise of DVR in rehabilitation services, this cooperative program is developing methods of returning job-injured workers either to their former jobs or to new ones, suited to their capabilities. Although the agreement has only been in effect for five years, some 500 persons now are receiving DVR services as a result.

To explore the full potential of this program, a pilot project was set up in May in the Beckley Office to serve all Compensation Fund claimant referrals in the southern three-county area with an aim of innovative methodology and closer inter-agency communications.



EDWARD CLETUS KIRBY District IV

Ed lives in a remote area of southern West Virginia. His family is closely knit and protective. His school successes were limited and his environment offered little to prepare him either for employment or for coping with society's pressures. Neither he nor his family had heard of Vocational Rehabilitation, but after three years of effort, Ed became a wage-earner.

Mentally retarded, having a speech defect and mild hearing loss which requires frequent medical care, Ed was in Park Ungraded High School when contacted by the DVR counselor serving the Mercer County Cooperative School Program. A community work-study program was used to provide much-needed work experience and medical management begun. No speech therapy facilities were then available, so Ed's counselor and teachers worked with him.

After much painstaking and patient counseling (which involved extensive travel by his counselor), Ed was placed as a janitor at the Sealy Mattress Company in Bluefield, Virginia, where management has shown great interest in hiring the handicapped.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Investigating the needs of the disabled . . . planning innovative methods of supplying the services they need . . . and evaluating the effectiveness of the programs is the role of this unit. Some of the projects developed during fiscal 1975 were exploring the possibilities of a special program for uncontrolled epileptics at the Center; a register and follow-up study of spinal cord clients served at the Center; and a job placement follow-up study of Marshall University client/students. Improvements in the driver education program at the Center included a classroom situation designed for paraplegics and quadriplegics as part of an Innovation and Expansion fund grant. Another I & E grant helped establish the spinal cord project in Clarksburg and strengthened the Center unit with additional motorized wheelchairs, dental equipment, and an ambulance.

Projects were limited somewhat by uncertainty of funding. "Serving the Rural County" project in Franklin was closed, with clients continuing to be served out of the Keyser office and the Glenville project was discontinued as a branch office. Projections for 1976 include additional Summer Career Counseling Institutes for severely disabled high school students, training workshops in psychological testing and IWRP development, and consideration of new projects for cardiac and epileptic clients.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Program objectives this year focused on the need to place physical restoration services in proper perspectives in the long range pattern of services. The medical fee schedule was revamped and comprehensive guides for counselors were completed on two impairment categories. The feasibility of accreditation of the WVRC Unit was evaluated and dialogue begun with the medical professionals regarding pilot coronary rehabilitation projects.

CLIENT EDUCATION AND PERSONNEL

The development and expansion of vocational training resources to meet the needs of the severely disabled was a major goal that involved both units. Curriculum is being upgraded at the Center and the 60 teachers are now involved in a certification program which is expected to be completed within five years. Two weeklong counseling sessions for severely disabled high school students were held and a survey of high school students begun, however, current law makes release of information uncertain, and this is hampering efforts to identify disabled students in the school system.

STAFF INFORMATION/DEVELOPMENT

Continually upgrading staff skills and knowledge now involves an average of 1½ days each month in the field in addition to special workshops, courses and the opportunities for on-going education. Orientation is offered to all new employees and to meet the primary training objectives of interpretation and administration of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Amendments of 1974, training was held in job skills training/placement, IWRP utilization. The Agency operations manual is being rewritten to conform to these new regulations.



DONALD FOLDEN District V

IQ tests identified Don as severely mentally retarded to the level that would require constant care, support and supervision throughout his life. His speaking vocabulary was limited to a dozen words and he couldn't put two of them together to form a thought. Most of his life had been spent in Weston and Huntington State Hospitals, and his future looked bleak.

But Don was highly motivated toward getting out and going to work, so his counselor arranged to have him released to the Huntington Rehabilitation House for Men and placed at the Green Acres Sheltered Workshop. It took extensive counseling and guidance, supportive concern from his houseparents and considerable speech therapy, but Don was friendly, outgoing, eager to please and he worked hard.

He has now been an employee of the RC Cola Bottling Plant for five years and just recently has set up housekeeping in a trailer purchased with his own earnings. With just a little effort, the listener can understand Don's speech, which now shows rational thinking and planning. It's taken almost 7 years, but Don is now on his own.

*Each year, recognition is paid
whose successful rehabilitation
You'll read their stories through*

Two Outstanding West Virginians .

JAMES DICK



Jim is a statistician with the West Virginia Department of Highways in the Advanced Planning Division of the Traffic Analysis Unit. It's an impressive title for a man who has an impressive record of achievements despite the cerebral palsy which has handicapped him from birth.

Mr. Dick was first referred to Vocational Rehabilitation by his high school guidance counselor, who realized that Jim had extraordinary potential with a quick mind and a very realistic adjustment to his limitations. He spent his first two years of college at Potomac State and then transferred to West Virginia University, where he majored in math. An undergraduate degree wasn't enough to land him a job, so he went on to earn a Masters in Statistics.

Cerebral palsy affects motor skills — coordination and gait. Walking may appear to be awkward . . . fine movements uncontrolled. Handling everyday utensils such as cups and glasses require concentrated effort. Learning to drive may be impossible. But cerebral palsy doesn't need to limit the mind.

Jim uses no cane or hand appliances, although he'll be the first to admit that he is the only one who can read his laboriously-taken notes. And he can enjoy bowling with other State employees. It took time to prepare Jim for his career . . . 99 months from the date of acceptance to closure . . . but then, it's a big step from seriously disabled to self-sufficient.



*to the individual in each district
stands out from the rest.
about this report. Now meet...*

... Co-Client of the Year Awardees

CLARA WHEELER

Ms. Wheeler's occupation is homemaker — keeping house for herself, her two teenagers and her elderly mother. In 1967, a stroke left her severely disabled . . . paralyzed on the left side. She must use a cane to walk and only her right arm is useful.

When Homemaker Counselor Nancy Meadows of the Huntington Office first visited Clara, she heard a story of countless frustrations encountered in everyday tasks — simple jobs that took so long to do that Clara had virtually given up.

DVR first provided a new leg brace and physician's care for medication and diet. As Ms. Wheeler began to feel better, her counselor asked her to keep a log of things she wanted to do, but couldn't, and together they began to solve the problems. Take food preparation — pots skidded off the stove until a simple handle was installed to anchor them. Mixing bowls slid out of reach, but one on a tripod stood still. A self-wringing bucket meant she could mop her own floor. A hose from the sink to the washer let her do her own laundry. Then, after her mother suffered a heart attack, Clara took over all household responsibilities, including shopping.

Clara's counselor says, "She now realizes that she is a useful individual again, that she is needed by her family, and that she is a dependable, reliable person who can function within her home environment completely and totally independently, if necessary."



The Rehabilitation Center

For clients with severe disabilities and those needing multiple services, the West Virginia Rehabilitation Center at Institute offers quality comprehensive medical, evaluative and training services. To help the newly arrived student fit comfortably into the program, a Coordinator of Client Admissions has been appointed to work with field staff; a Coordinator of Special Services assists new students and a very active Volunteer Services Department logged some 4,379 hours in client activities this year.



CHARLES E. McDONALD District VI

Ed graduated from the West Virginia School for the Blind in Romney as valedictorian with a straight "A" average. From there, he went on to Bethany College for a major in communications and honors that included "Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities." His prime interest was radio — and he worked jobs from staff announcer to news and production director for the college station.

Mr. McDonald has been totally blind since birth, but highly motivated and self-sufficient, Ed needed only blind adjustment and mobility training at the Center before DVR helped him go on to college. After graduation, Ed landed a job with a station in Charleston, but found he needed some modification in equipment. Voltmeters needed braille markings and an experiment with brailled printouts of wire service printouts proved too cumbersome, so an Optacon was obtained and Ed was trained in its use.

He's now moved to station WPNS in Hurricane, where he lives with his wife Jean. He writes news, does continuity and newscasts, runs the board . . . just about everything that needs to be done around the station.

Daily enrollment ranges between 300 and 400 persons of all ages, most of whom live on the campus. To facilitate record keeping, an independent data collection system was established and a media development center is being organized. Two new buildings — a women's dormitory and Life Adjustment Services Unit are nearing completion and the West Virginia Rehabilitation Center Foundation has received a Benedum Foundation grant and the support of VFW and Rotary Clubs in seeking funding for the construction of the long-awaited Interfaith Chapel.

Training areas now cover 23 fields with the most requested courses being driver education, small business enterprise class and auto service/mechanics. Federal Training Services Grants have been expanded to cover all areas and this has had good impact on client morale. Resource libraries are also under development for each area and as more physical space becomes available, additional areas are being considered for inclusion in the program.

Medical services encompass occupational and physical therapy, outpatient, dental maxillofacial, optical aids clinics, speech and hearing services and a treatment unit. This year, the number of clients entering the Center for therapy increased to 187; 38 of them spinal cord patients. Six universities cooperate in an internship with the PT department for clinical work. The treatment unit handled some 845 clients with the first phases of the intermediate care unit in the men's dorm underway. A Panoramic X-ray was acquired for diagnostic dental work and the Maxillofacial Prosthetic clinic provided help to 50 clients.

The Sheltered Workshop has significantly diversified activities . . . developing a gift shop and expanding sales to state park tourist shops. Contract work is developing well in such areas as custom silkscreen orders and ceramics/leatherworks were added to the crafts. Important changes were made in the evaluation system, giving clients and counselors daily feedback on progress made.

Adjustment and Evaluation services are carried out by many sections including the highly effective Blind Mobility course. Prevocational deaf services focus on communication skills and the JEVS system is in full operation in evaluation. Recreation encompasses not only crafts, hobbies, group activities, but trips such as camping weekends and a sports program highlighted by a wheelchair basketball team and olympic event participation. Recreational activities will swing into high gear as new facilities open in the spring.

Rehabilitation facilities

Facilities fill a need both for evaluation/training sources and as employment, either temporary or permanent, for those who cannot be placed in the competitive labor market. Of the 28 units, 9 are state owned and operated; 19 are privately owned, but work closely with DVR. Sheltered workshops, although initially backed by the community and assisted by DVR, must seek out contracts, produce goods, perform services and pay workers, just as in competitive business.

A total of 4,091 clients were provided facility services:

WV Rehabilitation Center Workshop	1137
4 Agency Mental Hospital Centers	1065
Penitentiary Unit at Moundsville	498
3 Special School Programs	651
Community Sheltered Workshops	740

Two new workshops opened during the year — Goodwill Industries of Kyowva Area in Huntington and Boone County Educational Workshop, Inc. in Madison. DVR increased workshop utilization by 30% and use by public schools was also increased, with several school boards assigning liaison members to workshops and one local board donating a building for workshop use. Two workshops established group homes for employees and a remedial education program was started in the Kanawha Valley Goodwill Industries unit. Funding continues to be a problem, particularly in the areas of construction, however, the conclusion of a Purchase of Services Agreement with the Department of Welfare should help increase workshop incomes.

MENTAL HOSPITAL CENTERS

Units at Spencer, Weston, Huntington and Lakin are staffed with rehabilitation counselors and vocational teachers to provide those patients ready for release with guidance, work adjustment, some on-site training and placement. 123 clients were closed rehabilitated from the Centers, however, many more were in an active program and transferred to a counselor in their home area upon release. Counselors work closely with the Regional Mental Health Centers, including one which has become a branch office in the Western District Guidance Clinic, Parkersburg. The Agency also cooperates with Green Acres and Shawnee Hills Regional Mental Retardation Centers.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

An integral part of the Agency's operations, school programs identify and work with disabled persons approaching working age. As law now requires local school boards to furnish all disabled students with a public education, many students are now in a position to be aided by the Agency, however, new ruling protecting confidentiality of records is making referrals by school personnel difficult. 68 young adults were successfully rehabilitated, and many more given on-going guidance and planning for further training.

HOMEMAKER PROGRAMS

Five districts now have full time counselors specializing in working with the disabled homemaker. 122 were rehabilitated; 600 provided services.



GLENNA TUCK District VII

Students at the Center who need remedial work in reading or math have an excellent teacher in Mrs. Tuck. Since rheumatoid arthritis was diagnosed some 20 years ago, she has managed to earn her degree in elementary education from Concord College and teach for ten years in the Greenbrier County schools.

Finally, after fractures of both hips, her condition worsened so that she was forced to retire and accept Social Security Disability, but in 1972, Glenna asked Rehab to help her return to her profession. It took two years of extensive medical treatment, including both total hip replacements and left knee replacement to alleviate the constant pain. Physical therapy helped, but Glenna must still use a wheelchair.

Structural barriers in her home area made teaching there impossible, and Mrs. Tuck had performed well as a substitute teacher at the Center, so when a position opened, she and her sister moved to Charleston and Glenna joined the Center staff. As Glenna's counselor has said, "Many people have worked long and hard to help, but the credit goes to Glenna, who has pushed herself beyond what any normal person could endure to gain her objectives."

Special sections

SELF EMPLOYMENT PROJECTS

Pulpwood hauling . . . to custom cabinetmaking . . . to small gasoline engine repair . . . Self Employment Projects are becoming an even more important placement modality for the severely disabled. 102 new projects were established, and 123 cases were in service at the close of the year. While 53 cases were closed rehabilitated, services rendered increased by two-thirds over the preceding year.

Emphasis now is being placed on intensive services to those clients considered to have best chances of succeeding, according to a recently developed profile. Consideration is also being given to a homebound industries program.

STRUCTURAL BARRIERS

Structural barriers stop not only people in wheelchairs and braces, but the elderly, the tot in a stroller and the skier in a leg cast, as well. To eliminate these barriers, an increased public awareness program has influenced legislation that requires buildings used by the general public to be barrier-free and has prompted most cities in the state to ramp curbs at crosswalks and designate reserved parking spaces downtown. Some 80 projects were reviewed by this unit and design guidelines for total accessibility distributed to architects, engineers and contractors.

To keep counselors aware of progress in eliminating barriers on college and university campuses in the state, a survey was conducted and a handbook compiled.

DISABILITY DETERMINATION SECTION

At the end of 1975, 35,185 disabled persons and 35,356 dependents of disabled workers were receiving Social Security Disability benefits in the amount of \$11,000,000 monthly. In addition, 17,982 disabled individuals received monthly Supplemental Security Income benefits of \$1,958,834. This unit automatically refers all claimants with rehabilitation potential to DVR and to bring about closer contact with claimants, local Social Security offices and physicians, a regional office was opened in Bridgeport, and in one year processed 4,630 claims.

A major aim was to reduce the caseload backlog caused by SSI. With 5,386 cases on hand at the beginning of the year, 36,853 claims were received and 38,616 were processed in a median time which has been reduced from 45 to 31 days.

RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER

One of 19 regional units, the West Virginia R & T Center addresses specific needs and problems of state rehabilitation agencies, providing research and training in program evaluation, client serving methods, psychological testing and special areas of program emphasis.

Among the year's highlights were a film "The Rehabilitation Act of 1973" and a 4-part slide/tape show "Understanding the Guidelines of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973" which were developed for nationwide distribution. The Center also provided training to rehabilitation personnel of many state agencies and conducted conferences across the country on the current legislation and the implementation of in-service training.



SHARON K. BALDERSON District VIII

Although Sharon is only 20 years old she has the brittle bones of osteogenesis imperfecto. The slightest trauma will result in a fracture. This is a congenital condition which cannot be corrected. She will always need an occupation which requires little stress and no heavy labor.

Sharon spent her high school years within a situation that was stressful and unhappy, and after graduation she moved to Parkersburg to live with an aunt and find work. Untrained and unskilled, she found nothing and turned to a physician for help. He referred her to DVR and in time she came to the Center for continuing therapy and training as a seamstress where she showed considerable talent.

It took expert counseling and support to help Sharon mature and become emotionally stable, but finally she was placed in a drapery shop. She's now working in Charleston at a dry cleaning shop, doing counter work and skilled alterations, and living independently.

WHERE DO THEY LIVE?

Barbour	44	Mingo	138
Berkeley	69	Monongalia	285
Boone	59	Monroe	28
Braxton	30	Morgan	16
Brooke	103	McDowell	155
Cabell	682	Nicholas	63
Calhoun	22	Ohio	357
Clay	40	Pendleton	27
Doddridge	21	Pleasants	21
Fayette	347	Pocahontas	19
Gilmer	51	Preston	73
Grant	33	Putnam	58
Greenbrier	76	Raleigh	617
Hampshire	45	Randolph	46
Hancock	139	Ritchie	18
Hardy	36	Roane	66
Harrison	281	Summers	52
Jackson	87	Taylor	46
Jefferson	55	Tucker	16
Kanawha	806	Tyler	36
Lewis	66	Upshur	60
Lincoln	106	Wayne	133
Logan	145	Webster	68
Marion	140	Wetzel	53
Marshall	346	Wirt	9
Mason	92	Wood	213
Mercer	266	Wyoming	177
Mineral	55	TOTAL	7092

These rehabilitated clients will return approximately \$4,622,000 each year in Federal and State income taxes.

HOW DID THESE INDIVIDUALS FIND OUT ABOUT REHABILITATION?

Self-referrals	2304
Government Agencies	1390
Interested Individuals	1104
Physicians	841
Hospitals	580
Schools	501
Health organizations	243
Private organizations	129

Successful rehabilitations can take place at any socio-economic level

AGE

1162 are less than 20
2447 are 20 through 34
1199 are 35 through 44
2035 are 45 through 64
249 are 65 and over

RACE

6635 are white
450 are black
7 are other

SEX

3019 are male
4073 are female

NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS

4114 have no dependents
978 have one
1206 have two or three
794 have four or more

WEEKLY EARNINGS

	At Referral	At Closure
None	4559	2243
\$1 - \$19	375	166
\$20 - \$39	355	425
\$40 - \$59	477	626
\$60 - \$79	544	904
\$80 - \$99	308	1018
\$100 - over	474	1710

WORK STATUS

	At Referral	At Closure
Wage and salary (Competitive Labor Market)	2360	5040
Sheltered Workshop	12	28
Self Employed	56	106
State Agency Business Enterprise	7	7
Homemaker	1262	1692
Unpaid Family Worker	70	219
Student, not working	645	
Not working other	2631	
Trainee non competitive	28	
Not reported	21	



REHABILITATION SERVICES PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

Purchased Case Services:

<i>Diagnostic Procedures</i>	\$ 826,066
<i>Physical Restoration Services</i>	2,867,907
<i>Training and Training Materials</i>	580,921
<i>Maintenance and Transportation</i>	520,376
<i>Other Services</i>	87,395

	\$4,882,665
Administration and Vocational Guidance and Placement	3,687,629
West Virginia Rehabilitation Center Operating Costs	2,457,756
Mental Hospital Centers Operating Costs	793,706
Other Facilities	63,185
Training and Special Projects	1,360,524

Specialized Facilities and Programs for the Severely Disabled:

<i>West Virginia Rehabilitation Center Alterations and Equipment</i>	\$3,798,731
<i>Vending Stand and Workshop Equipment</i>	119,262

	\$3,917,993
Vending Stand Program	148,177

\$17,311,635

SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

Disability Determination Program	\$2,026,952
Rehabilitation of Social Security Beneficiaries	1,495,242
Supplemental Security Income Program	386,661

3,908,855

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$21,220,490
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23.0% Case Services
\$4,882,665

16.9% Construction
\$3,580,060

15.6% Facility Services
\$3,314,647

13.0% Guidance & Placement
\$2,764,567

9.6% Disability Determination
\$2,200,000

7.0% Social Security Beneficiaries
\$1,495,242

6.4% Training & Special Projects
\$1,360,524

4.4% Administration
\$923,062

2.3% Other
\$486,110

1.8% Supplemental Security Income
\$386,661

*This is what your
rehabilitation dollar does*



SUMMARY OF BUDGET REQUEST 1976-77

EXPENDITURE AREA	REQUESTED 1976-77			INCREASE OVER 1975-76	
	State	Federal	Total	S/F Total	%
Personal Services	\$1,378,242	\$ 2,450,584	\$ 3,828,826	\$ 266,242	7.5
Current Expenses	428,300	696,600	1,124,900	13,420	1.2
Rehabilitation Center	1,398,596	2,600,184	3,998,780	267,424	7.2
Purchased Case Services	2,057,765	4,989,722	7,047,487	335,000	5.0
Vending Stand Program	163,728	202,666	366,394	13,728	3.9
Training and Special Projects	567,836	702,200	1,270,036	363,436	40.1
Social Security Matching	112,488	194,667	307,155	22,488	7.9
Mental Hospital Programs		719,540	719,540	43,252	6.4
Trust Fund Program		1,613,356	1,613,356	115,408	7.7
Disability Benefits Program		3,865,504	3,865,504	150,804	4.1
Food Service Program for the Blind	150,000		150,000		
TOTALS	\$6,256,955	\$18,035,023	\$24,291,978	\$1,591,202	7.0



RICHARD DAVIDSON District IX

In 1972, Richard Davidson was a biology teacher and basketball coach enjoying a motorcycle ride with his brother. And then a car struck the bike, killing his brother and leaving Dickie hospitalized with a list of serious injuries: a crushed right leg which had to be amputated, a left leg so badly fractured and lacerated that it seemed for a time it couldn't be saved, and severe radial nerve damage to his shoulder and arm.

Today, Dickie's playing and coaching basketball... from a wheelchair... but with gusto and skill. While he was at the Center for therapy and prosthetic fitting, he coached the wheelchair basketball team and urged them to compete for recognition as a sports event. Meanwhile, he took classes at COGS to earn a Masters Degree in Counseling and Guidance.

Davidson is now a guidance counselor at Mullens High School, but his interest in sports and rehabilitation hasn't ended. He's established an award in memory of his brother, which is presented annually to a Wyoming County athlete who has overcome the greatest difficulty to excell in sports.

Thorold S. Funk, Director
James W. Wagner, Chief, Public Education
Virginia J. Spann, Editor
Sandra Bostic, Janet Dooley
Bill Dunn, Jim Strother
Publication Staff
James Stewart, Photographer

Produced with the assistance of handicapped clients of the West Virginia Sheltered Workshop and Shawnee Hills Regional Center.

For additional information or copies of this report, write:
West Virginia Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, 1427 Lee Street, East, Charleston, West Virginia 25301.

Directory

STATE OFFICES

Charleston	P & G Building	348-2375
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DISTRICT OFFICES

Beckley	402 Bair Building	252-6292
Charleston	Suite 301 Morris Square	348-3408
Clarksburg	719 West Pike Street	624-5511
Huntington	200 Keith-Albee Building	529-2711
Keyser	133 Chestnut Street	788-2313
Lewisburg	106 South Court Street	645-2741
Mullens	316 Howard Avenue	294-5653
Parkersburg	404 Union Trust Building	485-6349
Wheeling	42nd and Wood Streets	232-3231

BRANCH OFFICES

Bluefield	614-617 Law & Commerce Bldg	327-9850
Chesapeake	13704 MacCorkle Avenue, SE	949-5711
Elkins	Tygart Valley Mall	636-3710
Fairmont	209 Adams Street	366-6950
Fayetteville	Court & Maple Streets	574-0961
Glenville	Walnut Street	462-5390
Huntington	Marshall University	696-2394
Logan	415 White & Browning Bldg	752-2876
Martinsburg	306 South Queen Street	263-0841
Morgantown	13 South High Street	292-7361
New Martinsville	317 Main Street	455-3240
Romney	West Virginia Schools for the Deaf & Blind	822-3957
St. Albans	54 MacCorkle Avenue, SW	727-2984
Summersville	818 Arbuckle Road	872-2851
Webster Springs	305 North Main Street	847-5326
Weirton	3600 West Street	748-5240
Welch	Jones Cornett Building	436-3175
Wellsburg	733 Main Street	737-2451
Williamson	Mountaineer Hotel, 4th Floor	235-2031

REHABILITATION CENTERS

Huntington	Women's Rehab House	523-9371
	Men's Rehab House	523-8563
Huntington Institute	Huntington State Hospital	523-2016
	West Virginia Rehabilitation Center	768-8861
Lakin	Lakin State Hospital	675-3230
Spencer	Spencer State Hospital	927-2530
Weston	Weston State Hospital	269-1834

GENERAL HOSPITAL & CLINIC OFFICES

Beckley	Appalachian Regional	255-3580
Parkersburg	Western District Guidance Center	485-1721

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Charleston	Elderly Blind Project	348-5988
Clarksburg	Spinal Cord Project	623-5661
Moundsville	West Virginia Penitentiary	845-4656

SPECIAL SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Bluefield	104 Park Street	325-8024
Huntington	10th Avenue & Bruce Street	523-8287
Wellsburg	Brooke County High School	527-3700
Wheeling	Lincoln School	232-2870

In accordance with state and federal law, no person shall be excluded from the vocational rehabilitation program, denied any benefits or subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin.



The art and crafts projects making up our cover, and the artists and craftspersons shown here are clients at the West Virginia Rehabilitation Center at Institute.

Some of the pieces were done in Occupational Therapy as exercises to help regain use of limbs and muscles or practice in gaining dexterity in the use of a prosthesis. Some were done in the Recreational Program, not only as a means of self-expression, but to encourage each individual to find exciting ways to use his after-work leisure time. Some were done in the Sheltered Workshop to develop marketable skills and products.



